

# A Great Hiking Place

## Discover Fannin County's Paleo Treasures At Ladonia Fossil Park on North Sulphur River



Every day is fossil day at Ladonia Fossil Park. An attempt to straighten a meandering creek many years ago went wild. The result was a continually eroding ditch that yields fossils over 60 million years old from the Cretaceous Period when the area was part of the North American Seaway. Erosion continues to expose a new set of fossils with each rainfall here.

Visitors to the park range from the serious research Paleontologist, to the local fossil collector to the dinosaur-inspired first grader whose parents come along for the stroll. On most explorations even first-timers come away from NSR with something of significance—yes, this park is one of few locations where hunters can carry away all but the most unique finds that would have scientific importance.

The Cretaceous Period yields fossils of large marine reptiles. Finds include the ancient sea turtles on exhibit at the Perot Museum, 50 feet long mosasaurs, 95 feet long plesiosaurs, Devil's Toenail oysters, and wormtubes.

Ice-age fossils from mammoths, mastodons, giant beavers, miniature horses, and camels are also found along the embankments and riverbed that stretches ten miles in each direction from Ladonia Fossil Park.

The park is open daily with no admission required. Call Ladonia City Hall for more information at 903-367-7011.

## The North Sulphur River Channel at Ladonia Fossil Park



## Have a Safe Trip at Ladonia Fossil Park

Take precautions as listed below:

**Wilderness Area** Take all precautions that are due for a guest in a wildlife environment. Hazards range from wild hogs to coyotes, snakes, poison ivy, and Texas Redheaded Centipedes.

**Elevation Precautions** Falls from steep 60 feet banks are possible. Also, mudslides and dirt cave-ins are possible.

**Accessing the Riverbed** The steps are steep and were built for flood control—not human access. Hence, those with arthritic knees, weak legs, hip problems, heart ailments, and the like should stay topside and not enter.

**Flowing Water** If water is flowing do not enter the river. The turbulence can be heavy and rolling and extremely hazardous. Generally, following heavy rainfall the river is safe to enter by third day after rain.

**Water and Food** Pack plenty of water and snacks.

**Shoes** In wet weather wear mudboots or mud wading shoes. In dry weather wear close toed shoes; no bare feet.

## The Hunting/Hiking Trail

The North Sulphur Riverbed is suitable for use from Ladonia Fossil Park for about ten miles to the east and ten miles to the west of the park.